



# South Mountains State Park

3001 South Mountain Park Avenue  
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

(828) 433-4772  
(828) 433-4686

south.mountains@ncparks.gov

GPS: 35.5963, -81.6000



## Activities

**Education and Events:** Park rangers offer regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs at the park. Contact the park office to arrange a special exploration of South Mountains State Park for your group.

Educational materials about South Mountains State Park have been developed for grades 4-7 and are correlated to North Carolina's curriculum. The South Mountains program introduces students to stream and watershed ecology and focuses on aquatic life, water quality and stewardship.



**Camping:** Twenty **backpack camping** sites are offered in six areas of the park. Each camping area has a pit toilet located nearby. Most sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Family camping** is available a half-mile east of the Jacob Fork parking area. The family campground includes a wheelchair-accessible bathhouse and one handicapped accessible campsite. All sites are reservable. Campers without reservations must confirm site availability with park staff before occupying a site. **Group camping** is available at all backpacking campsites except Upper Falls. The **equestrian campground** is adjacent to the equestrian parking area and includes 15 primitive campsites, a 33-stall barn and a bathhouse. Campers without reservations must confirm site availability with park staff before occupying a site. Proof of a negative equine infectious anemia (Coggins) test is required for horses.



**Trails:** Enjoy more than 45 miles of marked trails. All trails in the park are available to hikers. There are 33 miles of **equestrian trails** at South Mountains State Park. South Mountains State Park is one of the few parks in the state parks system offering **mountain bikers** the chance to ride through the park. The 18-mile, strenuous loop trail follows old logging roads through the backcountry.

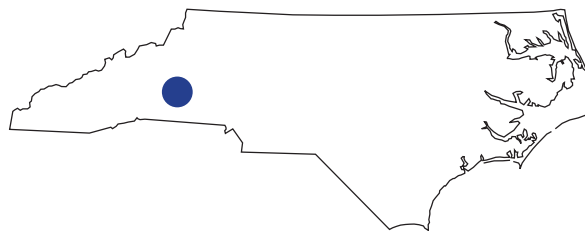


**Picnicking:** The Jacob Fork picnic area is accessible to people with disabilities and includes picnic tables, grills and a restroom. A picnic shelter is also available with 12 picnic tables, a fireplace and two charcoal grills. This shelter can be reserved in advance. The Shinnery Creek picnic area, a short half-mile walk from the Jacob Fork parking area, has picnic tables and grills. Additional tables and grills are located in the Cicero Branch parking area.



**Fishing:** The park offers many recreational fishing opportunities. All streams are designated trout waters. Designations include delayed harvest, wild, and catch & release. Clear Creek access is home to a 22-acre reservoir, containing inland game fish, largemouth bass and bluegill. All N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission rules and regulations apply.

## Location



South Mountains State Park is located in Burke County, 18 miles south of Morganton. From I-40, turn south on N.C. 18, travel 11 miles and make a right turn onto SR 1913 (Sugarloaf Road). Turn left on Old N.C. 18. Travel four miles and turn right onto SR 1901 (Ward's Gap Road). The park is on SR 1904 (South Mountains State Park Ave.).

## Park Hours

November - February ..... 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
March, April, September & October ..... 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
May- August ..... 8 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Closed Christmas Day



Please visit the North Carolina State Parks website or contact the park for **the most current information** about activities, alerts, camping, fees, hours, programs, reservations, rules, and weather.

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

Make a reservation online at [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)  
or call 1-877-722-6762.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS**  
*Naturally Wonderful*